

WHAT'S *New*

in the Metropolitan Police Department



*A weekly update for residents, visitors,
and workers in the District of Columbia*

Friday, June 20, 2003

VIOLENT CRIME IN DC DECLINES SLIGHTLY IN 2002; OVERALL CRIME IS LARGELY UNCHANGED

The number of violent crimes reported in DC dropped slightly in 2002, according to crime statistics released this week by the MPDC. Two of the four violent crime categories increased: murder, from 233 to 262 offenses, and forcible rape, from 181 to 262 reported offenses. The other two violent crime categories declined last year: robberies, from 3,777 to 3,731 offenses, and aggravated assaults, from 5,003 to 4,854 offenses. Taken together, these four violent crime categories showed an overall decrease of approximately 1 percent last year. Among property crimes, larceny/theft offenses decreased sharply, while burglaries and auto thefts increased in 2002.

Total property crime was largely unchanged last year, with 52 more offense reported in 2002 (35,347) than in 2001 (35,295). Overall, reports of serious crimes in the District, including both violent and property offenses, was largely unchanged from the previous year, with 33 fewer offenses reported in 2002 (44,456) than in 2001 (44,489).

UCR Offense Category	2001 Data	2002 Data
Murder	233	262
Forcible Rape	181	262
Robbery	3,777	3,731
Aggravated Assault	5,003	4,854
Burglary	4,947	5,167
Larceny/Theft	22,274	20,903
Motor Vehicle Theft	7,970	9,168
Arson	104	109
TOTAL	44,489	44,456

① Read the complete news release at:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/news/news.asp?sid=2150>

① The MPDC issued a statement on June 16, clarifying its 2002 crime statistics, after an MPDC review of data released by the FBI revealed errors in the preliminary statistics for DC. The MPDC is working with the Bureau to ensure that the final published UCR statistics for DC are updated with the correct totals. For an explanation, go to:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/news/news.asp?sid=2149>

① Citywide crime statistics dating back to 1993 are available at:
http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/districts/city/crstats_citywide_annual.shtml

MPDC ANNOUNCES "CAREER EXPO" ON JUNE 28 AT THE NEW WASHINGTON CONVENTION CENTER

As part of its ongoing efforts to grow to 3,800 police officers, the MPDC will hold its Fourth Annual Police Career Expo on Saturday, June 28, 2003, at the new Washington Convention Center, from 9 am to 5 pm. Recruiters and background investigators will be at the event, and testing for the position of police officer will be conducted on site throughout the day. In addition, various specialized units of the MPDC—including the Explosive Ordnance Division, Forensic Sciences, and the Canine and Helicopter units—will be on hand to discuss their work, demonstrate their state-of-the-art equipment and talk about career advancement opportunities within the MPDC. The Career Expo is the kickoff event of the MPDC's recruiting season. Other events throughout the year will include visits to military installations, community colleges and high schools, and various conferences and seminars targeting minorities and women, among others. Next November, the MPDC will make a return trip to Puerto Rico to conduct on-site testing for bilingual officers. The MPDC hopes to attract 1,200 applicants—both entry level and lateral hires—over the next year, as the Department works to meet its goal of 3,800 officers by September 2004.

① For details on the Career Expo, call the Recruiting Unit at (202) 727-2767, or visit:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/about/employ/careerexpo03.shtml>

① If you can't make it to the Career Expo, you can still learn about careers in the MPDC—and initiate the application process online—by going to:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/about/employ/officer.shtml>

“40 DAYS OF INCREASED PEACE” SEEKS TO STEM YOUTH VIOLENCE EAST OF THE ANACOSTIA RIVER

As part of ongoing efforts to reduce youth violence in neighborhoods east of the Anacostia River, the MPDC's Regional Operations Command-East and the East of the River Clergy-Police-Community Partnership will hold the third annual “40 Days of Increased Peace” this summer. Police and community leaders will officially kick off the “40 Days” with a news conference on Monday, June 23, at 11 am, at the ROC-East community room, 3244 Pennsylvania Avenue, SE. The “40 Days” conclude August 1, with an “Increase the Peace” Family Fun Day in Anacostia Park. It will include a pool party, skating party, music and entertainment. Throughout the “40 Days” there will be a series of athletic, spiritual, health and other outreach activities focusing on young people and families living in the Sixth and Seventh Police Districts. “With the challenges that young people face this summer in finding employment and educational opportunities, it is more important than ever that this unique partnership step up to the plate and provide our youth with positive and meaningful activities,” said Chief Ramsey.

Volunteers are needed for all “40 Days” events. Interested individuals may call the ERCPCP at (202) 373-5767 or ROC-East at (202) 645-5333

SUMMER CRACKDOWN ON DRUNK DRIVING BEGINS

With the official start of summer, the MPDC is stepping up its drunk driving enforcement efforts. Beginning this weekend, the MPDC will be conducting at least one sobriety checkpoint a week, covering communities throughout DC. These regular sobriety checkpoints are part of the regional “Checkpoint Strikeforce” initiative, which resulted in the arrest of thousands of drunk drivers in DC and surrounding states last year. In addition, the MPDC is participating in the national “You Drink & Drive. You Lose” public information campaign. The MPDC hosted Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta and various other law enforcement agencies and advocacy groups for the campaign kickoff on Thursday, June 19 at MPDC Headquarters. Advertisements, in both English and Spanish, will run from June 20 through July 13 on national programs viewed primarily by 21–34 year-old males, the demographic group most likely to drive impaired. The ads focus on the legal consequences that violators face for drunk driving.

NEWS & NOTES

Drug Free Zone. A drug free zone is in effect this weekend in PSA 606 in the Sixth Police District. Next weekend, drug free zones are tentatively planned for targeted locations in the First, Third and Seventh Districts. Details on the Anti-Loitering/Drug Free Zone law are at <http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/comm/drugfreezone.shtm>.

Secure the Call Emergency Cell Phone Program. The MPDC is participating in this regional emergency cell phone collection and distribution program. Individuals interested in donating old cell phones, which will be cleaned and reprogrammed to dial 9-1-1 and 3-1-1, can drop them off at any MPDC district station or substation. Citizen patrol and Neighborhood Watch volunteers, as well as other individuals interested in obtaining a free emergency cell phone should contact the MPDC's Community Outreach Section at (202) 727-0783.

① Read the complete news release at:
<http://www.mpdc.org/blue/news.asp?sid=2142>

① A complete schedule of “40 Days” activities is available (in PDF) at:
http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/districts/40days_2003.pdf

① One of the main “40 Days” events is the East of the River Safety Awareness Day, on Saturday, June 28, at the Penn-Branch Shopping Center. Details at:
<http://www.mpdc.org/blue/news.asp?sid=2135>

① For details on the national campaign, visit:
<http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/people/injury/alcohol/july4planner-03/index.htm>

① DC has tough drunk driving laws, including a BAC standard of .08, and new technology and resources to combat the problem of drunk driving. Details on drunk driving prevention in DC are at:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/traffic/duihome.shtm>

DATA BOX

Homicides (as of 6/19/03)

- 2003: 115
- 2002: 103
- % Change: +11.6%

Arrests (week ending 6/14/03)

- Total: 750
- Drugs: 115
- Motor Vehicle Theft: 22
- Prostitution/Sex Offenses: 58

Firearm Recoveries (as of 6/17/03)

- Total: 885
- June: 86

Traffic Fatalities (as of 6/19/03)

- 2003: 27
- 2002: 29
- % Change: -6.9%

Information, ideas, or comments about this service? Send an e-mail to **KEVIN MORISON**, MPDC's Director of Corporate Communications, at kevin.morison@dc.gov. Would you like to have this information e-mailed to you? Just go to our Website and register with **Crimereports.com**.

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